(c) the steps the Government propose to take for stepping up of production of indigenous crude;

(d) whether the Government are decided to reduce the exploration activities by the ONGC in West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a). The Eighth Five Year Plan is still to be finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of new projects are being implemented to augment indigenous supply of crude oil.

(d) and (e). The exploration programme in different areas will depend on the requirements and resource availability.

Ken Irrigation Project

1175. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3972 on August 22, 1991 and state the details of steps taken by the Union Government to obtain the modified report on Ken Irrigation Project from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the techno-economic appraisal in Central Water Commission?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Since Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh could not reach agreement on quantum of water available at the dam site, the Central Water Commission is assisting National Water Development Agency in finalising yield of river Ken at Greater Gangau.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Additional Natural Gas to Gujarat

1176. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated additional natural gas to Gujarat;

(b) if so, the quantum of natural gas allocated to Surat during last three years and its corresponding demand in those years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Allocations of gas are made on the basis of availability. All natural gas produced onshore in Gujarat has been allocated to various consumers in Gujarat itself. An allocation of 0.3 million standard cubic metres of gas per day has been made to Gujarat Gas Company for distribution in Surat City. A further request for allocating 0.7 million standard cubic metres of gas per day has beed made.

[*English*]

Expulsion of Colombo Correspondent of Air From Sri Lanka

1177. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Colombo correspondent of All India Radio (AIR) was recently expelled from Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have lodged any protest with Sri Lanka in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reinstate the AIR correspondent at Colombo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Shri Karuppaswamy, All India Radio political correspondent in Colombo, was served a

notice by the Sri Lanka Government on 16 October 1991 and asked to leave Colombo by 21 October 1991 on the ground of mis-reporting. The charge of mis-reporting referred to his report on 15 October 1991 that the Sri Lankan Speaker of Parliament Mr. M.H. Mohamed had submitted his resignation. It was learnt later that this was not the case.

(c) and (d). On 17 October 1991, Government took up the matter regarding expulsion of the AIR correspondent with Sri Lanka Government through our Mission in Colombo. Government expressed regret at the expulsion order served on Shri Karuppaswamy inspite of the fact that both AIR and Doordarshan immediately retracted their earlier report about the resignation of the Sri Lankan Speaker. Notwithstanding our demarche, the Sri Lanka Government went through with Shri Karuppaswamy's expulsion. No action has yet been taken to replace the AIR correspondent.

National Research Centre for Oil Palm

1178. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the location for setting up of the National Research Centre for Oil Palm in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above Centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

National Oilseeds Grid

1179. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board has any proposal to set up a National Oilseeds Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the interests of the oil seed growers are adequately taken care in the proposed set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTRUE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) National Dairy Development Board has a proposal to set up a National Oil Grid.

(b) The objective of the National Oil Grid is to link the major oilseeds producing areas with the demand centres which help in reducing wide fluctuations in the prices oils over seasons and regions. The proposal envisages :

(i) creation of oil storage capacity at strategic locations;

(ii) establishing packaging stations across the country to pack edible oils;

(iii) developing an economical transport system to move oilseeds and oil from surplus to deficit zones.

(c) Yes, Sir. The proposal also envisages linking the above facilities with the already established oilseed processing refining and other infrastructure under the NDDB financed oilseed Growers' Cooperative Project thereby benefiting member farmers.

Development of Fisheries in Andhra Pradesh

1180. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any team from Australia/ World Bank visited Andhra Pradesh to survey the availability of fishery resources in the